PERSEVERANCE:

A

POEM.

By JOHN RYLAND, Junior,

OF

NORTHAMPTON.

ISAIAH xlv. 15. *Can a woman forget her ſucking child, that ſhe ſhould not have compaſſion on the fruit of her womb? yea, they may forget, yet will I not forget thee.*

MAL. ii. 16. *For the Lord God of Iſrael ſaith that he hateth putting away.*

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PERSEVERANCE.

1. SAINTS admire, and ſing, and praiſe,
JESU's everlaſting grace
Which ſpontaneous and free
Cou'd thus fix on you and me,
And with undiminiſh'd flame,
Burns eternally the ſame.

2. Love like this was never known,
Which no floods of wrath cou'd drown,
JESU's love did never yet,
For a moment intermit,
It began not yeſterday,
Nor to-morrow will decay.

3. 'Twas before the worlds were made,
Or the ſkies blue curtain ſpread,
No beginning did it know,
And 'tis everlaſting too,
HE who on us ſet HIS love,
Ne'er HIS favour ſhall remove.

4. Can a woman e'er give o'er
Thinking of the child ſhe bore?
Can the babe that ſuck'd her breaſt,
From her mem'ry be eras'd?
Can ſhe e'er unmindful be,
Of the infant on her knee?

5. Can ſhe tenderneſs reſtrain
From the fruit of all her pain?
Never feel its bitter cries,
Smile at all its agonies;
Or unmov'd behold its joys,
Diſregard its liſping voice?

6. Where can be the monſter found?
Tread ſhe on what barb'rous ground?
Can we ſuch a wretch believe
Ever to have ſprung from Eve,
Bruti ſh more than tygers be,
Or the monſters of the ſea?

7. Yet, ſhould ſuch a brute diſgrace,
Eve's apoſtatized race,
Can the GOD whoſe name is love,
From HIS covenant remove?
Chang'd to-morrow may HE ſlay,
Thoſe whom HE embrac'd to-day?

8. Knows a change the SAVIOUR's heart,
Can HE from HIS choice depart?
Can the faithful SURETY leave
Thoſe the FATHER to HIM gave?
While HE fails HIS ſheep to watch,
One weak lamb ſhall Satan ſnatch?

9. Will

9. Will th' eternal SON of GOD
Loſe the purchaſe of HIS blood,
Shall HE fail to ſee the whole
Of the travail of HIS ſoul?
Over HIM ſhall hell prevail
Keep HIS ranſom'd ones in jail?

10. Shall HE HIS own work forget
Nor what HE began compleat?
Tho' the building HE begun,
Cann't, or will HE not go on?
Or did HE ſo weakly build,
That HIS church to hell ſhall yield?

11. If a fox attack the wall,
Shall HIS zion ſhake and fall?
Or can hell by craft or might
Rob him of HIS ſoul's delight?
Or will HE the town renounce
Nam'd JeHoVaH-SHaMaH once?

12. HIS own child will CHRIST forſake,
Howſoever ſick or weak?
Will HE where 'tis needed moſt,
Or deny HIS care or coſt?
Sha'nt his babes protected be
In HIS breaſt or on HIS knee?

13. Say ſhall ſomewhat unforeſeen
HIS affections from them wean?
Countleſs ages being paſt,
Will HE mend HIS thoughts at laſt,
After HIS too haſty plan,
Whom HE purpos'd ſaving damn?

14. Will HE thus not only act,
As tho' once HE wiſdom lack'd?
But ſhall GOD the GOD of Truth,
Break HIS promiſe, break HIS oath?
Horrid blaſphemy to ſay
Be forſworn JeHoVaH may!

15. Truth and grace forbid it both
HE ſhould caſt HIS people off
Parts of HIS own ſelf they are,
They HIS own reſemblance bear,
Them HE cannot chuſe but prize,
Dearer than HIS human eyes.

16. Yes HE cou'd as freely part,
With his eyes and hands and heart,
Each dear name engraven ſtands
On the palms of both HIS hands,
Each is on HIS heart impreſt,
Never one can be eras'd.

17. Having once reveal'd his love,
Can it poſſibly remove?
Cou'd HE bid a ſinner taſte,
Set him longing for the feaſt?
Him perſuade and bid to come,
Then exclude him from the room?

18. Having made HIS word to be
Dear as mother's milk to me,
Shall the church's breaſts be dry?
Shall I hunger, faint, and die?
When one promiſe of HIS word,
Life and comfort would afford?

19. Can I e'er forgotten be,
Once ſo dandled on HIS knee?
I be baniſh'd from HIS breaſt,
Once ſo tenderly embrac'd?
I be left to ſtarve and die,
Once ſo feaſted from on high?

20. Say for want of care and thought,
Can HIS work be brought to nought?
Shall implanted grace decay,
Wither quite and die away,
'Cauſe the brazen heavens will
Not one chearing drop diſtill?

21. Leave HIS people?—Yes HE can,
When HE is like to ſinful man,
When HE ſhall HIS Godhead loſe,
Conquered by prevailing foes,
By the powers of darkneſs foil'd,
Of each dear perfection ſpoil'd.

22. Then—but not till then—HE may
Caſt the choſen race away;
Then—but not 'till then—may leave
Thoſe to periſh that believe;
But if this can never be,
All HIS ſaints ſhall glory ſee.

23. Never for a moment's ſpace,
Can HIS love or change or ceaſe,
Fix'd HIS eye by day and night,
On HIS ſaints his chief delight;
Lov'd their perſons, mark'd their ways,
Heard their ſighs and groans always.

24. With

24. With delight HE bows HIS ear,
Their poor liſping prayers to hear,
Liſtens at their cloſet door;
Liſtens when they're telling o'er
To each other what they feel,
Peace from heav'n, or grief from hell.

25. All their actions HE doth mark,
Guides them ſafely through the dark,
Never doth HE off them look,
Writes their converſe in HIS book;
Pleas'd HIS pratling babes HE hears,
Pleas'd HE bottles up their tears.

26. Pleas'd to ſee them look on high,
Flutter, flutter, aim to fly,
Stretch their half-fledg'd faith and love,
"Yes, thoſe ſoon ſhall mount MY dove,
"Soon thy wearied foot find reſt,
"Here's thy dwelling in MY breaſt."

27. Though their faith HE often tries,
With them HE doth ſympathize,
Never one ſhou'd feel HIS rod,
Knew he not 'twould be for good,
Love may make HIM angry ſeem,
Wrath HE cannot be with them.

28. When HE their backſlidings chides,
And a little moment hides,
Still the ſame HE doth remain,
Soon HE ſhews HIMSELF again,
Waits but till they own their crime,
Waits but HIS appointed time.

29. When HIS preſence HE withdraws,
He's the ſame as e'er HE was,
Only ſtands behind the wall,
There HE ſees and watches all;
How HIS yearning bowels move.
All HIS boſom heaves with love.

30. Doth not our JEHOVAH ſay,
That HE hates to put away,
Hates a *beggar* to deny,
That doth unto HIM apply,
None an inſtance mention can,
When one ſought to HIM in vain.

31. HE all comers will receive,
Unto each that aſketh give,
All their wants ſhall be ſupply'd,
Only are the *rich* deſpis'd;
Never naked ſoul and poor,
Knock'd in vain at JESU's door.

32. One the weakeſt of HIS *flock*,
Never was by HIM forſook,
Sooner cou'd HE bear to part,
With the blood that fills HIS heart;
HIS own hand is their defence,
None ſhall ever pluck them thence.

33. Of the *jewels* of HIS crown,
Never will HE part with one,
HE will ſurely dig them all,
From the ruins of the fall,
Poliſh'd each by grace divine,
Shall in mingling luſtre join.

34. None, however great a fool,
Will HE baniſh from HIS *ſchool*,
Greateſt far of teachers, HE
Gives the fool capacity,
None ſo dull or bad, or baſe,
But HE'll mend them by HIS grace.

35. Whom HE has adopted once,
HE will ever own as *ſons*,
Each ſhall ſurely live to ſhare,
That eſtate whereof HE's heir,
By HIM ſhall be kept and taught,
By HIM be to glory brought.

36. Shall HIS *bride* be e'er divorc'd,
Or from HIS embraces forc'd?
Ever be the thought abhorr'd,
By my ſoul's moſt gracious Lord,
Me HE did to HIM betroth,
HE can never caſt me off.

37. Will HE loſe a *member* ſmall,
Of HIS body myſtical?
If diſeas'd, hath HE not ſkill,
The diſeas'd will HE not heal?
Say ſhall Satan boaſting tell,
He has part of CHRIST in hell?

38. All HIS people ever ſhare,
HIS inceſſant love and care,
Never can HIS kindneſs fail,
Never can their foes prevail;
None ſhall HIS elect condemn,
None ſhall from HIM ſever them.

39. In

39. In HIS hand HE holds them fast,
Nothing preſent, future, paſt,
None in earth, and none in hell,
None that doth in heaven dwell,
Did, or doth, or ſhall divide
Them from CHRIST the crucify'd.

40. Tho' rebellious can they be,
Worſe than what HE did foreſee,
Tho' unworthy of HIS love,
Can it poſſibly remove?
This HE well knew long ago,
Yet HE lov'd and bought them too.

41. Tho' their wants abundant are,
HE has wealth enough to ſpare;
Tho' ungrateful, vile, and baſe,
HE can mend them by HIS grace;
In HIS love HE reſts the ſame,
Praiſe for ever praiſe HIS name.

42. Heav'n and earth ſhall paſs away,
JESU's love cannot decay,
None its heighths and depths can tell,
Never brother lov'd ſo well;
HE the ſinner's ſureſt friend,
Loves HIS people to the end.

43. O the breadth, the depth, the heighth,
O the length, the eternal weight,
O the worth, the ponderous load,
O the maſſy love of GOD,
O th' unequall'd myſtery,
Overwhelm'd with love am I.

FINIS.